BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. VII June 1, 1939 No. 11

FICTION

NOTE

Not a made-to-order Must Book in the lot, but these four have a better than average chance for sales. Vicki Baum's SHANGHAI (Doubleday, Doran) is her first novel in some time headed toward sales rather than rentals, a repeat on *Grand Hotel*. William Blake's THE PAINTER AND THE LADY (Simon & Schuster), though unpalatable reading, will rate attention on the basis of his last book. Heinrich Mann's HENRY-KING OF FRANCE (Knopf), has a circumscribed but well defined appeal. And the new Wodehouse, UNCLE FRED IN THE SPRINGTIME (Doubleday, Doran) will meet all expectations.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

June 5

Coyle, Kathleen — IMMORTAL EASE — Dutton

An odd book, esoteric, which will be liked by discriminating readers who appreciate subjective writing, sense of mood, and an ability to transcribe the undercurrents, nuances of human relationships. The story deals with the life of an Irish-American poetess, Victoria Rising, and is presented to give the feel of biography rather than fiction, through manuscripts, letters, etc. Two marriages, one as escape, one for companionship, could not rub out the emotional tie of her childhood, to Lloyd Emmott. He, thinking he had lost Victoria, had substituted collective action for the personal life he never had, doing revolutionary work in the Far East, and refusing to forego it when he finds her again. Elliptical, somewhat unresolved, but provocative in its high-tension emotionalism. $2.50

June 20

Green, F. L. — ON THE NIGHT OF THE FIRE — Macmillan

Not a crime story, but a study in crime, which because of the stupidity and superficiality of the central character, is lethargic and tedious. The author's aim is to delineate the rather subtle psychological intricacies preceding and following the initial crime, but his blockhead protagonist is barren soil. He is a barber in a large English city who has an opportunity to steal two hundred pounds and does so. The theft leads to murder on the night of a great fire, and from then on it is a gradual process of self-exposure to the police. Some good external descriptions of the city, the fire, the slums and near-slums, but the vain, egocentric, violent barber hardly justifies the attempt. $2.50

~~June 23~~ Aug 18

Wodehouse, P. G. — UNCLE FRED IN THE SPRINGTIME — Doubleday, Doran

* A fine set of situations replete with Wodehousian characters make for good screwballiana. A choleric houseguest given to popping whistlers of "Loch Lomond" with eggs, his unwilling host devoted to his prize pig, two young lads needing two hundred

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dollars, and Uncle Fred engineering it all after posing as a psychoanalyst and nearly gumming the works. Not rip-roaring, but amusing enough. $2.00

June 30

O'Brien, Edward J.-Ed. 50 BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES 1915-1939 Houghton, Mifflin

O'Brien feels that within the last twenty-five years the American short story has come into its own, casting off hide-bound rules, and turning from the far afield to reflect America, its people, manners, tempo. This collection justifies his claim and presents the most representative: Dreiser, Irvin S. Cobb, Hergesheimer, Hemingway, Anderson, Lardner, La Farge, Marquand, Dorothy Parker, Willa Cather, Kay Boyle, Faulkner, Caldwell, Farrell, Saroyan, Steinbeck, etc. From the entertainment standpoint, not as good as the Maugham TELLER OF TALES (Doubleday, Doran) but a significant contribution as a guidepost to the modern short story. $3.00

July 7 ✓

Carfrae, Elizabeth THE PAST WAS A SLEEP Putnam

On the upgrade for rentals, and better than her last few. Rosemary burns all her bridges and scraps conventions to live with a young and attractive peer whose wife will not divorce him. His sudden death leaves her footloose, with a child en route, and she marries again for convenience, and finds that she must forget her first love to make a go of her present marriage. $2.00 ✓

July 14

Turpin, Waters E. O CANAAN Doubleday, Doran

The author of THESE LOW GROUNDS achieves in this second novel a unity the first lacked. Though the story is good, the book derives its stature from its characterization and its portrayal of various sides of Negro life. The center of the stage is held by a group of Mississippi Negroes, ruined by lynching and crop failures, who migrate to Chicago in prosperous days, make a place for themselves, and then succumb to the dangers of first prosperity. Through one family, that of Joe Benson, their friends and associates, one visualizes the tempo of Chicago's South Side. And Turpin succeeds in making his Negroes human beings, in showing them from the inside out - hating, loving, feeling as whites do. $2.50

July 17

Lancing, George LOTUS BLOSSOM Lee Furman

An historical (??) novel of the late Empress Dowager of China, lush, extravagant, and pretty cheap. She was Orchid, vain, petulant, opportunistic, but extremely beautiful. A simple boy, Lotus, falls in love with her, follows her to Peking, where, much against his will he is forced to become a eunuch and serves at the royal court. Orchid comes there as one of two thousand concubines, in the lowest category, but through the devious machinations of the devoted Lotus, becomes Empress Dowager at last. Swish! $2.50

~~July 25~~ 10/24

MacManus, Seumas DARK PATRICK Macmillan

For those who like Irish wit and whimsy, stories of long ago steeped in folklore and recounted in the colorful dialect of Ireland, this will be just right. This

group of tales present Dark Patrick, a stout little black-haired man with a keen intelligence and an inordinate amount of mountain sense. Rascals and scoundrels are put to shame one by one by this "homespun Daniel come to Judgment from Donegal", affairs of state are solved, the poor and the humble are saved in a succession of delightful stories. Whimsical, charming, but for a limited few. $2.00

July 28

Baum, Vicki SHANGHAI Doubleday, Doran

A triple-decker *Grand Hotel*, which although poorly balanced, is good reading of its kind. Vicki Baum takes a mammoth mouthful, choosing fifteen odd characters to bring together in Shanghai, each reflecting one phase of post-war change. The first part, 300 pages, gives the personal histories of each - and many may feel that the build-up is topheavy. A Jewish doctor, who loses son and wife in the Nazi onset; Russia is taken care of by Helena, an adventuress sleeping around the continent until marriage to a title and millions; an American nurse and her weakling fiancé; the new China versus the old in the marriage of a modern Chinese woman-doctor who loses her husband to a concubine; a thwarted Japanese in secret service; etc. etc. They all meet in Shanghai, port of emigrés, hotbed of degeneracy, filth, a city in transition between old and new culture. There is opium, espionage, love of all kinds, father and son, infatuation, etc., and at the close, all are killed in the bombing of the Shanghai Hotel by the Japanese. It reads well, despite the profusion, and has a good chance. $2.75

July 31

Linklater, Eric JUDAS Farrar & Rinehart

The last Linklater, *The Impregnable Women*, was a modern turn on the Lysistrata theme. This is another gesture of similar nature, the story of the betrayal of Christ told in vernacular, with a slightly new interpretation of the character of Judas, and a few analogies to contemporary issues. But all in all it is pretty meagre - and one wonders why it is written. Judas is portrayed as a devoted follower of Christ, an ally to his cause from childhood on, but a coward and unable to stand by Christ when personal danger heads on. Christ incurs the enmity of the conservatives because his words might possibly involve his people in a war with the tyrant, Rome, and Judas rationalizes his defection by thinking he has saved them from war. To me, a purposeless retelling of the great story, and thin reading. $2.50

~~July 12~~ August 4

Blake, William J. THE PAINTER AND THE LADY Simon & Schuster

An unpalatable, disjointed and difficult tale, leaving a bad taste in the mouth and a scrambled sense in the brain, a sense of undigested ideas, unpleasant people, and confusion of motives. The story revolves primarily around two brothers. both trained in the vineyards and with leanings toward art, both in love with daughters of a rich wine merchant. But they both go off, adventuring emotionally throughout southern France, and through a tale of lust and love there is interwoven dirty politics, racial complication, left versus right, etc. Ultimately one brother sells his birthright for a mess of potage, marriage to the winegrower's daughter whom he loves, and is led in her traces. The other brother is eventually guillotined for a double murder he did not commit. Your conservatives will be very gunshy, and all in all it's too sordid for the average reader. $2.50

August 1

Mann, Heinrich HENRY-KING OF FRANCE Knopf

* Sequel to *Young Henry of Navarre*, which though sold as fiction, (as planned for this one), stands as a memorable biography of the youth of Henri IV. The period covered in this second volume embraces the years between the victory of Arques which made him king, to his assassination in 1610. Thrilling and glamorous and confusing years, difficult to follow without a thorough grounding in French history. Setting aside this hurdle, one recognizes that Mann succeeds in recreating the man and his period, his strengths and his weaknesses, wars within and wars without, politics, religion and custom at odds. The romance of his life, with Gabrielle d'Estrées; and his pallid marriage with Marie de Medicis; the side issues which complicated his relations with his women and his people. His tragic determination to win popularity - and his successive failures. His real contribution to some measure of tolerance, through the Edict of Nantes - and his own compromises with conscience. An important book. $3.00

August 14

Maloney, William Brown IN HIGH PLACES Knopf

More Hitleriana, an idea book, verging on the stunt, to drive home again the ideology of Fascism, the warped psychology of the man at the helm. The immediate conflict presented here is between science and personal motives, when a Jewish surgeon, in hiding for five years after having been mutilated by the Nazis, is ferreted out and brought to Hitler. Hitler is the victim of a brain tumor, and the Jew, Emmerlich, is the only one able to perform the delicate operation. Emmerlich stifles all personal bias and operates successfully, to be killed at the close by the fanatical blackshirt-brother of the girl he loves. Some rather interesting interpretative analysis of Hitler, if a rather fanciful idea. Well written, but not for a wide range. $2.00

Thurman, Harriett AND SO MY HEART Macrae Smith

You should be able to rent this to your young-thing market with ease for its modern tone, dialogue on the upswing, and love going about eight ways at once. The central *affaire de coeur* is that of Storm North who falls in love all of a heap with a young aviator at the head of a moribund aeroplane factory. Crooked business, an aeroplane crash or two, heartbreak all over the place and a happy ending. $2.00

MYSTERIES, WESTERNS AND THRILLERS

May 27

Rawson, Clayton THE FOOTPRINTS ON THE CEILING Putnam

* The Great Merlini *(Death From A Top Hat)* attends a séance in the Hell Gate stream of Manhattan. Among those present are an ex-gangster, a "Con" man, a psychoanalyst who studies black magic, and many other dubious characters. Several murders - and first rate baffling. $2.00

June 2

Marsh, Nagio OVERTURE TO DEATH Lee Furman

* A new Roderick Alleyn (still unmarried to his adored Troy) case dealing with the upper crust set, a murder at a recital by ingenious arrangement of piano soft

pedal and gun, a plethora of suspects. Still imitating the Sayres type, but the best of the lot and a goodie. $2.00

July 5

Austin, Anne MURDERED BUT NOT DEAD Macmillan

Title give-away to solution, but good reading. The personal appearance of a celluloid celebrity brings to a boil all surmises as to her real identity, and old scandal of years back. Her death brings in a special investigator and Kay Loring, a movie columnist, who traps the killer. Entertaining. $2.50

July 12

Connington, J. J. THE COUNSELLOR Little, Brown

Again minutious deduction from Connington, but more action than usual, in a pretty involved kidnapping plus murder story involving two phony set ups, a fine arts printing press camouflaging a counterfeit gang, and a hophead club. The Counsellor, running a Voice of Experience radio bureau, noses around and dopes it all out. Connington may seem a little old-fashioned to some. $2.00

July 19

Gruber, Frank PEACE MARSHAL Morrow

Not many exceptions to the rule, and kind of stuffy. The marshal of a new railhead, a boom town, out-gunplays the baddies, two brothers, trying to control the town and using the girl the marshal loves as a stooge. $2.00

Greene, Josiah E. THE LAUGHING LOON Morrow

* Amateur detecting by a snip of a girl when an accident occurs on a fishing party in the Minnesota backwoods, and the girl insists it's murder and proves her point. Good job of handmade detecting and tight enough plot. $2.00

July 25

DuBois, Theodora DEATH DINES OUT Houghton, Mifflin

Not quite as pert in dialogue and more guessable than her previous. The McNeills' again at the helm when a wealthy man is murdered with a pretty fancy South American poison, and suspicion falls on his likeable nephew and fiancée. The McNeills again do their bit by young love and find the culprit. $2.00

July 27

Stout, Rex MOUNTAIN CAT Farrar & Rinehart

Not a Nero Wolfe yarn, but tale of murders in Wyoming involving two girls, lawyers, family scandal, political manoeuvres and a divorcée out for no good. Good pace, romance of one girl, but sprawly police investigation. Medium. $2.00

July 28

Davis, Frederick C. POOR POOR YORICK Doubleday, Doran

Again the Police Commissioner's son Hatch meddles in his father's territory to solve a disappearance and triple murder. A dizzying number of red herrings, the solution simpler than you'd think. Fast-stepping action and entertaining. $2.00

August 1

Coxe, George Harmon MURDER FOR THE ASKING Knopf

* Hale, wealthy bachelor turns to private dicking, and his first case involves murder of a professional gambler, a missing Englishman who is his client, and blackmail letters of another client. Hale plays ducks and drakes with police, smart set, and some small-time thugs. Wham bam action - good reading. $2.00

~~August 10~~ July 20

Footner, Hulbert THE MURDER THAT HAD EVERYTHING Harper

Criminologist Mappin, called in by wealthy girl to find her missing fiancé, discovers said fiancé's body. Investigation involves New York socialites, disappearance of big money, and personal revenge for past snubbings by social bigwigs. Stilted - only so-so. $2.00

Wentworth, Patricia THE BLIND SIDE Lippincott

Not a hair-raiser, but pleasant enough going in tale of an odious Londoner ruining various of his relatives and murdered in turn. Family history helps solution by Scotland Yard. Romance on the side. $2.00

N O N - F I C T I O N

MUST BOOK

June 8

Gunther, John INSIDE ASIA Harper

*** It would not need the record of *Inside Europe* to give this first place and tops among MUST BOOKS. Having read it with zest and absorbed interest, I cannot see how any person who wishes to consider himself (or herself) well-informed on world affairs could fail to put this at the top of his personal list of books that must be read - and rate it as one of the few books "to be chewed and digested." Gunther has succeeded in laying the groundwork for clearer understanding of the great enigma that is Asia; he has provided a springboard for comprehension of what is happening and what is going to happen. He has shown us Japan on the march; China in rebirth; India struggling for education, freedom from religious strictures, modern ways of thought and political independence. He has given us a picture of those other countries of Asia, which we are inclined to dismiss summarily through sheer ignorance of their place in the modern scheme. He has indicated basic trends, - imperialism rampant, religious bondage still to be defeated, poverty beyond anything in the rest of the world, nationalism on the move, democracy in birth, the family system in force, personality at the helm, a strange absence of awareness of the social struggle, incompetence in executives and underlings, and a growing conviction that he is right in maintaining that Pan-Asia is an illusion. The book is one that should be read slowly and carefully. It is not as easy reading as *Inside Europe;* the names and conditions are unfamiliar and complex. But once again he has given us a penetrating study of personalities, livened his story with drama, color and humanity, woven his fabric so closely that one thing fits snugly into the next. He has clarified as far as seems possible for an Occidental, the characters of Gandhi, of Ibn Saud, of Rez Pahlevi, of Quezon, of Chiang Kai-shek and others. And, with all its complexities, he has made it grand reading. A book for an immediate sale and for the long haul. Backed by extensive promotion and advertising. $3.50

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

June 12

Burdekin, Harold THE SECRET Dutton

Quite frankly, I can't go to town on this type of book. *A Child's Grace*, in spite of the beauty of the photography, seemed to me sentimentality of the most unfortunate kind. This book I liked better, since it is merely a collection of fine photographs illustrating (sometimes in a far-fetched way) texts which the compiler intends to build into a definite thought - the thought that "God is Love." $1.75

Limpus, Lowell M. HONEST COP Dutton
The Dramatic Life Story of Lewis J. Valentine

New York City's police commissioner as the basis for a good journalistic type of biography. Brief sketch of his youth - then the steps by which he became known as the racket busting cop, serving on the strong arm squad. Political changes - and demotion; another new slate and another chance, this time to break up professional gambling. Walker intervenes - Tammany wants its gamblers protected. But, eventually, with La Guardia, the "honest cop" gets his chance and becomes commissioner. A signal instance of incorruptibility and integrity which is laudable against the hotbed of Tammany's dirty dealing. Journalese, accurate, an animated, selective clipping job. Can't see general sale - the average layman will get rooked if he buys this one! Illustrated. $3.00

June 19

Kern, Corinne Johnson NURSING THROUGH THE YEARS Dutton

In line with the author's *I Go Nursing* and *I Was A Probationer* digs further into personal experience and recounts them breezily. Helping out a country doctor, handling a T.B. case with a hophead doctor in charge, a crazy family on an isolated farm, a shabby house on the waterfront, working for a neurologist with wealthy spoiled women, retirement to the Sierras and four cases the first day. Not up to *Adventures with a Lamp*. Second rate. $2.50

June 20

Jackson, Joseph Henry TINTYPES IN GOLD Macmillan

Stories drawn from California's record of highwaymen, which, in view of the fresh impetus given authentic Westerns by the screen, should fit right into that market. There was Black Bart, the poet highwayman; there was Tom Bell, pioneer in organized stage robbery; there was Rattlesnake Dick, who worked out his spite against the world; there was the psalm singing Dick Fellows who couldn't sit a horse. Joe Jackson knows his California background, and has told the stories with zest. His growing popularity, through his national broadcast, should make not only this book, but his excellent travel books, sell generally. $2.50

June 23

Mitchell, Edwin Valentine MAINE SUMMER Coward, McCann

Mitchell has the faculty for bringing out the very soul and the spirit of the bits of New England he loves and wants to share. He has the true antiquarians point of view, but what he collects are interesting facts and anecdotes and legend to liven his thesis. This time, he writes of the Coast and Islands of Maine - and it is delightful reading for all who know and love it. Illustrated by Ruth Lepper. $2.50

June 23

Kelsey, Vera & Osborne, Lilly de Jongh — FOUR KEYS TO GUATEMALA — Funk & Wagnalls

Not a guide book but a scholarly study of the country, its history, its people. A book for students, for anthropologists, etc., rather than for the average traveler, or the layman interested in reading books about other countries. The subject is divided into three main sections:- Indian Guatemala, Colonial Guatemala, the Republic of Guatemala. Well-done, but limited in appeal. Illustrated. $3.50

~~June 17~~ July 25

Fadiman, Clifton, Editor — I BELIEVE — August 15 — Simon & Schuster

In 1931 *Living Philosophies* presented the "creeds" of some of our foremost thinkers. The book reached a wider market than anticipated. The public was looking for a basic way of thought, and eagerly read to find what leaders had formulated for themselves. Now, eight years later, a new group have been brought together, a group representing a wider ranger of nationalities, points of view, backgrounds. Some of them give as framework for their beliefs, an intimate glimpse into their own backgrounds and personalities; others are more objective and impersonal; virtually all face the problem of adjusting a way of thought to a world in turmoil. There are represented a unique group of writers, philosophers, doers, including for example W. H. Auden, Franz Boas, Pearl Buck, Stuart Chase, Havelock Ellis, Lin Yutang, Thomas Mann, Jules Romain, George Santayana, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, James Thurber, Rebecca West, etc. Each article is prefaced by a succinct biographical note. At the close, a section is given to those who contributed to the previous volume, to give, in brief compass, the summary of changes they fell in their own creeds. Clifton Fadiman has contributed an excellent foreword, summarizing the idea behind the symposium, and indicating the contribution made by the people represented. Many of the articles appeared in abridged form in The Nation. The market is that of *The Story of Philosophy, The Importance of Living*, etc. $3.~~00~~ .75

July 7

Federal Writers' Project — THE BEAUTIFUL BERKSHIRES — Funk & Wagnalls

This seems more sharply localized in interest than most of the American Guide Books, for the Berkshires seem, to met a least, not dramatic enough to interest any but those planning a vacation there, or knowing and loving their quiet beauty and charm. Good for that market, but limited. Illustrated. $2.50

July ~~17~~ 20

MacDonald, Norman — THE ORCHID HUNTERS — Farrar & Rinehart

* This is grand reading. I don't think anyone could ever see orchids casually displayed for an evening's wear after reading this book, without finding the imagination retracing the tortuous ways of South American jungles, visualizing the perilous adventure, the danger, the beauty and the fascination and the terrors that orchid hunters experience in making orchids available for the world market. Good adventure - good armchair exploration of a novel sort Well written, witn a sense of experience shared. Illustrated. $3.00

July 17

Lussu, Emilio SARDINIAN BRIGADE Knopf

One year in a Sardinian brigade in 1916, fighting the Austrians, and an informal record of that year spent for the most part in the trenches. One more indictment of war (though not vital enough to give it much importance). One sees a Colonel so shattered by the atrocities that he can remain sane only while brandy is plentiful, a General who is near-mad and issues one suicidal order after another, the mounting resistence of the soldiers, finally resulting in mutiny, the author's personal experiences. The story closes the day of the big offensive. Thin. $2.50

Walker, Franklin T. SAN FRANCISCO'S LITERARY FRONTIER Knopf

A revealing book which is an important addition to America's literary history. We of the eastern seaboard are inclined to think that New England, New York and Chicago scoop the works on literary heritage. Now, through this interesting history of San Francisco and the riches of her past, one gets an entirely new conception of the facts. Here is the story of a city, through its frontier days, and its heyday. Here is the picture of successive ventures in periodicals, many of them foster parents to some of our national figures in literature:- The Pioneer, Golden Era, Territorial Enterprise, The Californian, Outcroppings, The Overland Monthly, The News Letter, etc. Here are stories of the early days of Bret Harte, of Mark Twain, of Artemus Ward, of Ambrose Bierce, of Joaquin Miller, of Henry George, of Stoddard and others. Here is the background for John Muir, for the historian Bancroft, for Frank Norris and Jack London. And through much of the story, there is the interwoven story of Ina Coolbrith, the Aspasi of that era and region. An important title for the Coast, and a book that should find a place on public library shelves everywhere. $5.00

August ~~8~~ 29

Soule, George SIDNEY HILLMAN: *Labor Statesman* Macmillan

* Excellent in its field, but acknowledgly left wing and limited to those who really want to know the facts behind the legend, the story of one of the great powers in today's labor problems. Hillman is the subject of much controversial opinion. Here is the first authentic biography, authorized because he was persuaded that in his methods and viewpoint was something that would help other leaders to an understanding of the true worth of the democratic philosophy of life and politics. It is not so much Hillman's personal story as the analysis of the labor causes to which he has given himself. Soule is liberal and sympathetic in his presentation. He endorses Hillman's ideals and work, feeling that in him is to be found the type of leader who can bring business and labor together. The text is livened with interesting experiences of Hillman as a young leader in Chicago, as pioneer in the labor field of the clothing industry, as head of the Amalgamated and one of the leaders of the C.I.O Soule defines his book as "a case study in creative and democratic leadership." He shows Hillman leading by cooperation rather than enforced authority. Exceedingly well done, and interesting, and should be an eye-opener to those who want to see. $2.50

August 14

Page, Clifford TURTLES OF THE U.S. AND CANADA Knopf

Page's books on *Snakes* is the most interesting one in its field, which does not quite coincide with the Ditmars' books. Now comes this one on *Turtles*, with no competitors, and he can endow even this subject with interest. The introductory

section will interest anyone with a naturalist's viewpoint, Beyond that. the subject is highly specialized, each known type of turtle in the U. S. and Canada is presented, assembling the scientific data, covering such points as identification, size, sex, eggs, longevity, distribution of species, habits, mating, nesting, reproduction. $3.75

~~August 15~~ July 18

O'Casey, Sean I KNOCK AT THE DOOR Macmillan

A famous Irish playwright looks back at his early formative years, in Dublin, during the colorful period of Parnell. Johnny Casside's childhood was a tragic one, cut off first by the loss of his father, then by an acute eye infection, which doubtless helped stimulate his imagination and creative faculties. Years of poverty and malnutrition, conflicts between doctor and rector over his schooling, the struggle in school to keep pace with other boys, in spite of bandaged eyes, reprieve, when his mother finally sided with the doctor and removed him. Alternating with his harrowing personal experiences are descriptions of the times, - processions, a Castle ball, a wake - all done in lyrical, extravagantly Joycian manner, stream of consciousness style, plus the Rabelasian vernacular of the period. An unusual book, a blend of comedy and tragedy, very Irish in its sensitivity, its rhymes of thought and word. The book concerns itself only with those years of his childhood - revealing the background against which his plays are drawn. Not a book for everyone - but those who like Irish setting and Irish way of thought and expression will appreciate it. $2.50

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Published

Hines, Duncan LODGING FOR A NIGHT Adventures in Good Eating, Inc.

As one of the pioneer rooters for *Adventures in Good Eating*, we should have seen and reported this long since. Now with a new edition out on both books, we want to call them again to your attention. Last year 38,000 copies of the two books were sold. Already 30,000 copies of the new editions have sold in six weeks. The second volume follows the plan of geographical arrangement of the other book, and lists hotels, inns, guest houses, auto courts, with rating, prices, etc. A chance for plus sales to any customers who do any amount of motoring, or who plan motor trips for Summer holidays. $1.50

American Guide Series CALIFORNIA: *A Guide to the Golden State* Hastings House

The first section presents a survey of the history, geography, flora and fauna, agriculture, industry, transportation facilities, labor situation, press and radio, the film industry, education, the arts. Second section - sign posts to the city scene, takes the state city by city, giving the facts needed, for traveler or reference; section three, up and down the state, plans tours around a focus of 14 towns, gives space to national parks, the exposition, etc. Chronology, reading list and index give the book permanent reference value. Map in separate pocket. Illustrated with fine photographs, beautifully reproduced. Not a substitute for the Drury book, but a useful guide, for visitors and travelers. $2.50

Laughlin, Clara E. SO YOU'RE VISITING NEW YORK Houghton, Mifflin

With an introductory section indicating the basic services for visitors to New York, methods of transportation, etc., Miss Laughlin then proceeds to handle

New York as she has handled European cities, without, however, managing to convey any sense of excitement or glamor. The facts are there, but the color and drama are lacking. This slim book constitutes the opening sections of the proposed *So You're Going to Travel in the U. S.* A useful handbook for a stranger in the city. $1.35

Eliot, George Fielding BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR Reynal & Hitchcock

The author of *The Ramparts We Watch* analyzes the place of air force in the defensive and offensive programs today, in both Europe and America. He considers that the power of direct action constitutes the revolutionary element in air power, and examines the nature and qualities, the limitations and powers, and the application of the air weapon to the international situation. Interesting but somewhat specialized. $1.75

Franck, Harry A. THE LURE OF ALASKA Stokes

One of the world's greatest travelers takes Alaska in his stride. He gives as the result of this travels there, a thorough guide book and an interesting study of the country and its people. His viewpoint is not only that of the traveler but that of the student, the economist, the philosopher, the poet. The text is abundantly informative, but is stimulating and enlightening reading at the same time. Illustrated. $3.50

Goritzina, Kyra SERVICE ENTRANCE: *Memoirs of a Park Avenue Cook* Carrick & Evans

Might be the factual background for the play, *Tovarich*. The story of two White Russians, aristocrats with no assets, who are forced to turn to cooking and butling. From nouveau-riche to social register, they make their way, even have a fling at the underworld. Many of their experiences are unpleasant. All in all good human international material, backstairs commentary on wealthy households and employers. Entertaining. $2.50

June 7

Waters, Don OUTBOARD CRUISING Sheridan House

The Waters family have found a novel mode of life. Much of the time they make their home on their ketch, but between times they explore inland waterways with a 16-foot canoe, equipped with an outboard motor. This is the story of those explorations, which took them all through the interior waterways of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana bayous and the rivers that feed into the Tennessee. There is a final chapter on the mechanics of camping and travel, which makes it a practical how-to-do book for enthusiasts of small fresh water craft. To the rest of us, the book seems repetitious. $2.50

June 8

Prentice, E. Parmalee HUNGER AND HISTORY Harper
The Influence of Hunger on Human History

Here's a book that is crammed to the last page with interesting facts in a field of history which most of us take for granted, the history of food and related matters such as agriculture, domestication of animals, cattle raising, poultry raising, and so on. From the earliest known days to the super-abundance of the present, history relates itself repeatedly to matters of food. There is no particularly revolutionary nor startling thesis nor findings put forward in this book, but the steps by which he presents his material make interesting reading for layman and student alike. There is a possibility of the appeal of *Rats, Lice and History*. $3.00

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

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- Sheean, Vincent - NOT PEACE BUT A SWORD- from 6/9 to 6/23 165

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BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

June 1, 1939

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS SUPPLEMENT

Edited by Gene Simmonds

GARDEN BOOKS

Bissland, James & Others ROCK GARDENS: AND WHAT TO GROW IN THEM Hale, Cushman & Flint

We were excited over this title because we thought Mr. Bissland had written on what *not* to put in them. Our disappointment, however, was short lived for the author and contributors have done such a comprehensive job we doubt if even the most imaginative admirer of whitewashed stones, red capped gnomes and scarlet sage could find a spot to plant one. Step by step we are told how and where to plan a rock garden. The settings in which they will appear most naturally, the exposure, drainage, etc., then chapter after chapter on plants, color combinations, unusual specimens, ferns, etc. One interesting point made is that a rock garden should be planned as a year-round garden not just a spring pageant. Therefore, all through the book plants are suggested for the color and charm they will offer in the winter scene as well. A short cut to lovelier rock gardens is a true description of this book. $1.00

Farrington, Edward I. THE VEGETABLE GARDEN Hale, Cushman & Flint

This is a book for the man or woman who would like to grow his own vegetables and enjoy their full freshness and flavor at his own table. It is therefore a book for the small plot owner, the vacant lot gardener or the small family which does not want to cultivate more than it can consume. The author has had a long experience in gardening and the gardening problems of amateurs so that he knows all the pitfalls and warnings, the suggestions and advice and has carefully poured it into this volume. He does not assume that a family that adores tomatoes and dislikes cauliflower will sow twice as many tomatoes. He tells them to skip the cauliflower and save the space. Economy of space and produce are emphasized and a careful plan, proper preparation and cultivation are urged. The subject is handled with such deftness and interest that anyone with a plot of ground, a little spare time and the willingness to work for his supper will be inspired to action. $1.00

Farrington, Edward I. THE GARDENER'S ALMANAC Hale, Cushman & Flint

As a rule the new gardener has no idea when to do what and the seasoned gardener often forgets or procrastinates. This calendar is an excellent reminder to keep on hand for both amateur and expert will welcome its gentle suggestions and find their gardens thriving as a result. It tells when to plant and how late it is feasible to try second crops, when to spray, mulch and prune as well as the thousand and one other things that must be done at the proper moment. Compiled from *Horticulture* this book has every earmark of authenticity and is a valuable addition to any gardener's library. $1.00

Medsger, Oliver Perry EDIBLE WILD PLANTS Macmillan

Innumerable times I've stopped before a bush or vine of luscious looking fruit or berries and longed to eat my fill. However, there has always lurked the horrid suspicion that it might prove poisonous and remembering Adam and Eve's downfall I've moved on with my mouth still watering. Anyone who lives in the country or walks there knows this experience and Mr. Medsger was certainly inspired when he decided to write this book. Although the list is unbelievably long Mr. Medsger says it does not pretend to be complete; in fact, he is sure that there are hundreds of other wild plants, nuts, fruits and roots that are eaten with relish by natives, trappers and explorers. Besides identifying the edible plants he tells how to use them, to prepare them and, if necessary, cook them. He also is quite honest about their taste--whether it is pleasing and palatable or a food to be partaken of only as a dire necessity. To the nature lover, the gardener or gourmet who loves the unusual this book will supply a pocketful of tricks and to the hiker or cyclist many a refreshing meal. An excellent book for summer campers. $3.50

Ortloff, H. Stuart & Raymore, Henry B. GARDEN PLANNING AND BUILDING Whittlesey

Not really a garden book, but might readily be sold in that department. A book for the home builder, the architect, etc. How to select a site for a house, with the landscaping in mind. Where to place a house on a lot. How to lay out the service end, garage, drying yard, etc. Types of roadbed for the driveway. Planting. Terraces. Walls. Fences. Steps. Garden design and plans. Type of gardens. Rock gardens. Not a book about flowers and trees and shrubs, about what to grow and where - but a book on planning the groundwork on which ultimately to build and plant. Illustrated. $3.00

Parker, Charles H. THE LAWN: *How to Make It and How to Maintain It* Hale, Cushman & Flint

Good lawns have become so scarce that gardeners seem to feel they are impossible for all but the great estates where many men are constantly at work. Mr. Parker agrees up to a point--at least he recognizes the pests and problems to be overcome in the attainment yet he feels that it is well worth the trouble. He has simplified the preparation, planting and care to a point which should be within the reach of everyone who is willing to go to some pains with his garden, for a decent lawn should be an essential setting for the flower garden. $1.00

Taylor, Norman, Editor THE GARDEN DICTIONARY Houghton, Mifflin

Call the attention of your customers to the new price of this standard volume. Originally sold by subscription for $16.25. Now only $7.50

Webster, Helen Noyes HERBS: *How to Know Them and How to Use Them* Hale, Cushman & Flint

Considering what Mrs. Webster has covered in this volume it should be a tome--yet it is a masterpiece of condensation. Herbs are ageless and their history seems to have known no beginnings so any book on herbs goes back to the lore and use of the ancients, designs of early gardens, old recipes, etc. It is a fascinating study and one that always appeals to the customer with a bit of "whimsey". On the practical side this book is so sound and concise that your hard-boiled gardener who only grows the things he can use will enjoy it and find it thoroughly adaptable. Herb gardens are fashionable now and are inexpensive. Authoritative books such as this should be recommended as A-1. $1.00

RELIGIOUS BOOKS

Brown, Charles R. BEING MADE OVER Harper

For years while he was Dean of the Yale Divinity School, before and after, Charles Brown has preached an evangelical gospel that emphasized God's desires to change man the moment man desired to be made over. His contacts with students, parishioners and the man in the streets have been personal, unhurried and spiritual. He has lived what he preached that the world cannot change a true Christian, nor lower his standard but that he can be used to change the world. This man needs no introduction for he has a large following. Don't fail to tell your customers he has a new book of sermons. $1.50

Chapman, Emmanuel SAINT AUGUSTINE'S PHILOSOPHY OF BEAUTY Sheed & Ward

Part of the charm of the Saint was his interest in many things seemingly beyond the scope of theology. Everything in life was to him part of his religious experience. Therein probably lay the secret of his appeal. This book takes up the place of Beauty, a philosophy that contributed much to his own faith. To those who must come to God through an appreciation of art this book will make a lasting contribution and for those who argue for Beauty vs. God a sound argument in favor of the Deity. $3.50

Crowell, Grace Noll SONGS OF FAITH Harper

A sort of companion volume to *Songs of Courage* and *Songs of Hope* but a completely new volume of verse. While this is not for the modern or sophisticated, Mrs. Crowell has a large following. She is the Homespun Poetess, popular in women's magazines and the Methodist Church, religious, sentimental, simple, homey. She sells widely so pick the right market and go to town. $ .50

Fisher, Marie GREY DAWNS AND RED Sheed & Ward

The story of a very natural little boy who decides to be a martyr when he grows up. He goes to China and--but that's part of this story for boys and girls of the in between, or 9 to 13, age. $1.25

Lewis, Edwin THE FAITH WE DECLARE Cokesbury

The Christian Manifesto was hailed as a great contribution by all Protestants. The author has written here an even clearer statement of the faith to which he holds and preaches. It is a fearless examination of essentials, a challenge to the church, the priests and congregations, but it also holds a challenge for the man in the streets. Edwin Lewis preaches a gospel he can understand. It is an intelligent gospel, intellectual but not "high hat", demanding but worth the price. It offers a chance to support a Leader capable of overcoming sin and offering eternal life. The foundation is firmly laid for him to build his faith. A good book for the clergy to take on vacation or to recommend to their parishioners. $2.00

Mackinder, Dorothy THE VIOLENT TAKE IT BY STORM Sheed & Ward

So dramatic a novel no one will mind its having a moral! Extremes are the order of the day, great goodness triumphs over sin, piety over passion, purity over pomposity. The little dancer of the attic becomes the great actress of the day, the toast of society and the instrument of God to convert the vain monsignore and make him again the sainted priest who had tried to save her twenty years before. $2.00

Malard, Suzanne & Ata RADIO REPORTER IN JERUSALEM Sheed & Ward
A Play

In search of sensation to satiate the editor and the public, a radio reporter wanders through the city streets asking at random in the throng "Who is Jesus of Nazareth?" Intensely modern in spirit yet in one shift of scene the reporter is whisked from 1939 back to the first Palm Sunday and the Jerusalem of our Lord. The action moves then through Holy Week to the triumphant finis of Easter. The play is dramatic, forceful and well written enough to make good reading as well as acting. $1.50

Nutting, Willis Dwight HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION Sheed & Ward

Finding himself in a structure built not on the Roman Catholic Foundation Mr. Nutting like a good Romanist stopped short and investigated not just the foundation but the bricks and the mortar and the workman. In short he went right back to the philosophies and theologies of each faith, studied and appraised then convinced by his findings he warns all his fellow religionists to do the same and be sure the foundation of their faith is strong enough to stand the strain of Life--an excellent idea for every denomination, a convincing argument for Catholicism. There'd be fewer wobbly churchmen today if we had more men and women who could think as straight as Mr. Nutting and write as clearly. $1.75

SPORTING BOOKS

Barber, Joel 'LONG SHORE Derrydale

Last November the author modestly mentioned he'd written a bit of a play - a homely thing, short, unique, in verse, and wondered if we'd read it and suggest a publisher. We asked a bit more about it and without hesitation felt it was a book for sportsmen who know and love the salt and brine, the Tidewater sections and verse, homespun sport, Americana. Derrydale was the natural house. They accepted it and Gordon Grand offered to voice approval in a foreword. The result is as neat a little number as anyone could wish. Dry humor, pathos, history, all the ingredients that go to make a perfect little gift book. Bound in full red cowhide. Illustrated by Arthur D. Fuller and limited to 750 numbered and autographed copies. $7.50

Calahan, H. A. SO YOU'RE GOING TO BUY A BOAT Macmillan

For all who share the yearning to sail, race and cruise, books of Calahan's have been keen favorites for the past decade, forming a library without which few sailors could navigate and because of the low cost well within their reach. As boat owning and buying amounts to a fever the author hopes this book will be of use not only to the novice buying his first craft but to the seasoned salt changing boats for

for the umptieth times. A few of the valuable aids he carefully surveys, include what to look for in stability, speed, ventilation, adaptability, sail area and steerage way. This is the kind of book that saves money, time and trouble for the prospective owner who will follow its suggestions, and may for the novice avoid actual disaster by helping him find the right boat for his needs and abilities as well as a safe and sound craft. $3.00

Connett, E. V. RANDOM CASTS Derrydale

Publisher turns author, fish analyst or what have you, anyway our publisher is on firm ground with a favorite topic so here's how to catch bigger and better trout in bigger and fuller baskets. Here's the psychology necessary to a more or less complete understanding of the trout's point of view. Chapters on flies, dry and wet, nymphs and their dressing, sixteen chapters on the angler's side of the story and nine on the trout's. But for all its informative material the readability has not suffered. There are plenty of stories, fish stories, tall tales and angling incidents peopled by well known names like those of La Branche, Hewitt, etc. The book is meant to supplement the author's previous books, *Any Luck* and *Fishing A Trout Stream*, so that those who have the books will certainly want this and perhaps you can make plus sales of the earlier volumes to purchasers of *Random Casts*. Illustrated by Ralph L. Boyer and Milton C. Weiller whose enchanting drawings have appeared in other Derrydale's, as well as photographs and diagrams. 950 numbered copies. $7.50

Hart, Scott THE MOON IS WANING Derrydale

Possum huntin' is news to those who haven't known any of the hale and hearty Lon Braxtons who still manage to live on the lands granted their ancestors by the crown. You can't get them up in the morning or persuade them to work their fields but they'll follow a good possum hound all night, take their medicine from straight-laced God fearing wives, cause trouble and provide sport for strangers and neighbors alike, depending on which side of the fence the possum's treed. Those who've hunted possum will enjoy this first book on it as much as those initiated to its thrills. *The Moon is Waning* is different, entertaining and informative and like all Derrydale's accurately depicts a quaint sidelight of the American sporting scene. The illustrations by Edwin Megargee are excellent. They've caught the spirit and flavor of the story to perfection. 950 numbered copies. $7.50

Lincoln, Frederick C. THE MIGRATION OF AMERICAN BIRDS Doubleday, Doran

To the naturalist this book will supply welcome information; for the amateur who loves birds it will provide fascinating enlightment. The plan and pattern of the various routes travelled by the various species are nothing short of amazing and the stories told by the tiny aluminum bands attached in the banding stations and recorded by other stations when they are retrapped is almost unbelievable. How the flights have been recorded since Bible days, how much has been established and how many facts still evade the ornithologists make this a book that is at once unique and invaluable to students, birdlovers, banding stations, schools, camps, and conservationists and "Garden Clubbers." $4.00

Thompson, Kenneth R. THE MENTAL SIDE OF GOLF Funk & Wagnalls

Golf made simple, via the method of relaxation, concentration, smooth swing. The author attempts to show how golf is rooted in psychological basis, how one may defeat an inferiority complex by knowing how it can be done. Rules for relaxing - thereby enjoying the game and improving the score. Pretty superficial. $1.50

Williams, Ben Ames THE HAPPY END Derrydale

Ben Ames Williams has written many best sellers - stories and novels full of entertainment and pleasure. To the sportsman this will top the best of 'em. For here we meet neither fiction nor foolishness but Mr. Williams in person, as our hunting, shooting and fishing companion. With him discover the lure of trout versus the plague of mosquitoes; that a woodcock, incognito, can be mistaken for a fern; the danger of sleep walking on private cars with observations or without the observation of Kenneth Roberts; that the best bird dog isn't always the most lovable; that wild turkeys are formidable obstacles, etc. Page after page of sheer delight. Because of his established reputation this book should open the way to many new customers for Derrydales. Those accustomed to paying $2.00 or $2.50 will be bound to ask "Why $7.50"? So be sure to grasp your opportunity to tell them all about Derrydale publications. Why they cost more, why they are valuable, why they should start collecting them. Make them sure you are introducing them to the "find" of their lives. 1250 numbered copies. $7.50

Vanderbilt, Harold S. ON THE WIND'S HIGHWAY *Ranger, Rainbow & Racing* Scribner

The three times defender of the America's Cup tells the story of his racing career. For those interested specifically in yacht racing tactics, this book will prove a find; for the average small boat owner, it will be too technical, too specialized. The inside story of these races has provided plenty of discussion in racing circles. Here is the actual story of what happened, illustrated with fine photographs, and ending with a thorough analysis of Right of Way, for those who are concerned with racing rules. A very limited audience - but for them an important contribution to the history of American yachting. Illustrated with 60 photographs, charts, etc. $10.00

HOW TO USE THESE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS

Our purpose in giving recurrent space to books in specialized fields is to aid the bookseller, who cannot hope to have specialized knowledge in all fields to equip himself for adequate service in directions which should mean plus sales and new customers. The juvenile supplements need no amplification. Every bookseller realizes that in young readers he is building his future market. But Religious Books, Sporting Books, Garden Books seem something of a gamble.

Look upon them in this way. Readers of religious books are primarily among the scholars and clergy, good book buyers all, if once their confidence is gained. They are not merely seasonal readers. They want to keep up with what is being written in their own fields. This supplement, three times a year, gives you the tools. Check it over, list the books for individual customers, ring them up or drop them postcards. And have other books ready to suggest, when they come in.

Garden books are timely. Many who have postponed garden book reading to this time, need the quick general knowledge the Hale, Cushman and Flint group of books will give them. Add suggestions to your garden table in the form of the English Countryside Series and certain types of travel books.

Sporting books create a whole new group of customers. Limited in interest in books, yes, but when they start collecting sporting books in their own particular field, it means money in pocket, for here is one of the biggest fields for plus sales. The Derrydale catalogue alone makes friends among sportsmen - and new business for your shop. Buy carefully. Cull your customer list with a view to picking the right book for the right man. And the thing is done.

BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. VII June 1, 1939 No. 11

SUMMER JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT - No. 1

Note: Our resolution to concentrate juveniles into four Spring issues and eight Fall issues seems to have fallen by the wayside. First, we did six Spring supplements; now we are faced with an accumulation of late Spring and early Summer titles, so have decided to do two supplements on mid-Summer titles (June 1st and 15th). Then with July 15th, start the Fall supplements, and continue through to Children's Book Week. So - here goes. Books already published unless otherwise noted.

PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Burns, Esther — MRS. PEREGRINE AT THE FAIR — Messner

* *Mrs. Peregrine and the Yak* was one of our favorites last Fall. Now comes the sequel, which has a timely note in the tie-up with the New York World's Fair. Of course, Mrs. Peregrine would want to go to the Fair; and of course, she would find a way to give others some of the fun (and thereby have more fun herself). This is not as original as the story of the Yak, but it is fun, and the pictures by Eloise Wilson are delicious. This story is distinguished from every other book, so far encountered, dealing with the Fair, in that the author studiously avoids mentioning anything remotely educative. Sheer entertainment value! A lot of book for the money. $1.00

Gilbert, Helen Earle — MRS. MALLABY'S BIRTHDAY — Rand McNally

There is something faintly suggestive of Elsa Beskow's beloved *Wee Little Old Woman* in this quite charming and very simple tale of an old woman who wanted a kitten for her 100th birthday - and got everything else. Pictures by Winifred Bromhall. $1.00

Andersen, Hans Christian — THUMBELINA — Holiday House
illus. by Hilda Scott — THE HISTORY OF TOM THUMB

These delectable little stocking books reissued and boxed together. Dainty, charming, illustrating what fine book-making can be for children. But one wonders whether they are not a bit too subtle for children? Too *precieuse?* $2.00

Robinson, W. W. & Irene — ON THE FARM — Macmillan

These are disappointing. There is an excellent factual text about the functional side of animal life on the farm; the pictures are superb, and perfectly reproduced. BUT - and this we consider a serious hurdle. The sizing seems all out of scale. The figures of the farm creatures are made so large that they impress one as if murals were squeezed into book page size - they hit one in the face, give a distorted sense of perspective. For my choice, I'll take *The Little French Farm.* $2.00

Wasson, Valentine P. — THE CHOSEN BABY — Carrick & Evans

This book fills a real need. A picture story book which presents the ideal way of introducing the fact of adoption to a child, through the story of an adopted baby. Text and idea tops. Some of the pictures are good. But some are *very* bad. $1.50

FIRST STEPS IN READING - *Story Books.*

Culp, William Maurice AND A DUCK WADDLES TOO Whitman

A rather cunning story of a small boy and his pet duck, told in primer vocabulary, and primer type layout. An excellent beginning reader for the very smallest child beginning to pick out words and phrases. Pictures by Eulalie B. Wilson. (6/1) $ .90

and also JEREMIAH THE CAT Whitman

Companion volume, this one about a blue Persian cat, with the routine wind-up as prize winner at the Show. I like the first book better. (6/1) $ .90

King, Marian PICCOLINO Whitman

A good story, which would have been improved by some drastic editing. Some good pictures by Nell Stolp Smock, which would have been improved by more white space. All in all, both story and pictures seem to have been too hastily put together, and a book about a Sicilian lad and his donkey, which might have had some distinction, turns out to be just another book about a boy and his donkey. $1.00

Szekely, Sari MARIKA Whitman

This was reported last September for late Fall publication, but was postponed to Spring. (See page 436). True story material of a child of Hungarian parents who is taken back to Hungary for a year of companionship with her parents' people. Good background material of life and customs, charmingly illustrated by Barbara Gabor. $1.50

FIRST STEPS IN READING - *Fact Books.*

Griffiths, Catherine & Craine, Susan THE CHILDREN'S NEW YORK Rand McNally

A photographic continuity of successive children and their varying reactions to different aspects of New York. Shows different ways of approaching the city, stresses different interests. But the net result is mediocre. $ .50

REPRINTS AND INEXPENSIVE JUVENILES

Rand McNally Ten Cent Books - Eleven New Titles Rand McNally

* (1) A TREASURE CHEST OF NURSERY FAVORITES containing good old standbyes, eight of them.

(2) (3) & (4) - A half a dozen Oz stories in three small volumes.

(5) Slifer & Crittenden--THE POPULAR QUIZ BOOK. Good educational value in word games, etc.

* (6) (9) & (11) Three old favorite tales retold by K. L. Bates, and illustrated simply and charmingly by Margaret E. Price. *Beauty and The Beast, Cinderlla, Tom Thumb.*

(7) Kipling's STORIES OF INDIA. Keyed to somewhat older boys and girls.

* (8) Collodi's PINOCCHIO. Drastically cut and illustrated by Esther Friend, with nice line.

* (10) 27 fables of Aesop, with Milo Winter pictures.

Note:- The best are starred. See margin. The purpose in reporting these ten cent books is that bookshops and book departments may be equipped to meet requests, and so save possible plus sales that might be lost if customers went elsewhere.

Rand McNally Twenty-five Cent Books - Four New Titles Rand McNally

(1) Frees, Harry W. FOUR LITTLE KITTENS, BUNNIES, PUPPIES. Originally published as three separate books. Photographic continuity telling story of small animals. They must have been liked, or they would not be here republished, but I thought them pretty average awful at the time, and the "omnibus volume" still seems mediocre stuff.

(2) THE AMERICAN PATRIOT'S HANDBOOK combines in one volume the text of the Constitution, the amendments, a descriptive text on the making of the Constitution and on the writing of the Declaration of Independence, the text of the Declaration of Independence; Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; data on the admission of the states; the history and significance of the flag, and various anniversaries; the national anthem; the list and photographs of the presidents. A lot of important information in convenient form.

(3) Includes a motley collection of Mother Goose rhymes, Aesops Fables, and Stevenson's CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSE.

(4) Selection from THE REAL STORY BOOK, including *Little Black Sambo, The Gingerbread Man* and *Titty Mouse and Tatty Mouse.*

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD (6 - 9)

Crockett, Lucy Herndon LUCIO AND HIS NUONG Holt

This is a beautiful book, one of the finest pieces of book making of the current season, with illustrations in soft tapestry designs and colors, exquisitely reproduced. The text tells of a Filipino boy and his water buffalo, and it seemed to me that while the story was simple enough for children under nine, the vocabulary and type face would prove difficult. Hence the inclusion under Books To Read Aloud. Good background material of native life and atmosphere. $2.00

Lane, Estella H. THE GIANT WHO LIKED CHOCOLATE CAKE Harper

A collection of stories which should make good material for reading aloud to groups of somewhat mixed ages, and retelling to somewhat younger children. In format the text is very unappealing, bad type face, unattractive page layout. I doubt whether children would bother with it themselves. The stories, however, are brief, with enough action and humor and variety to appeal. Drawings in line by Dorothy Hearon. $1.50

Turner, John Hastings BEAR, MOUSE AND WATERBEETLE Dutton

One of those old time humanized animals stories, in which young animals go to school, play games, have athletic meets, encounter adventures, etc. I'm frankly unimpressed. It seems to me stereotyped and mediocre. Illustrated by Warwich Lendon. (6/12) $2.00

Van Vrooman, Maria SHINE Dutton

* Suggested as a Read Aloud Book, because of the difficulty of the Negro dialect for many small readers. In addition, the type face is too small for inexperienced eyes. And yet it is a delightful little book, and good story of a small darky who wanted to grow up and do the things grown-ups did. Not until he went to the sugaring party, and found himself necessary for climbing the pecan tree, did he realize the advantages of being a small boy. Illustrated by Inez Hogan. (6/12) $1.00

STORY BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Angelo, Valenti — GOLDEN GATE — Viking

* From a Tuscan hill town to a Pacific Ocean community was a long stretch for small Nino, who was introduced in the story of last year which bore his name. This second volume continues his adventures in becoming an American boy, somewhat typical adventures of many good Americans in their immigrant boyhoods. (And doubtless following closely the author's own boyhood - his introduction to the California which claims him today). I felt the lack of color of the earlier book, but this has more action, and the American background may increase its general popularity. J.L.G. selection. (6/9) $2.00

Darby, Ada Claire — "SCALLY" ALDEN — Whitman

A reissue of a once favorite story, long unavailable. Ada Claire Darby has had successive popular books since this one, and in its new and enlarged format, this should once again take merited place, with Skip-Come-A-Lou, etc. A family story, with "Scally" as the central figure, and her adventures she shares with her brothers and sisters, in earning money for a vacation trip, makes a good tale. Illustrated by Gaye Woodring. $1.50

Hoffmann, Eleanor — THE TRAVELS OF A SNAIL — Stokes

* I found this hard to get into, and grand once I got going. Somehow the idea was a hurdle, but here proved to be an exceptional snail, who was determined to have some adventures and to see the world before he became a tickler for a fastidious palate. The story of how he achieved his aim is extraordinarily plausible. I liked it. The illustrations by Zhenya Gay strike exactly the right note. Honorable Mention H-T contest. $1.50

Kristoffersen, Eva M. — CYCLONE GOES A-VIKING — Whitman

A misleading title for an excellent story of Norwegian farm life. A sea captain's young daughter yearns for life on a farm; and a farmer's young son looks longingly on the life of the sea farer. It takes the full span of the story to bring him his wish, and in the process, the reader gets a good background of Norwegian life and festivals and the seasonal round. Pictures by Hedwig Collin. $2.00

Lynch, Patricia — THE TURF CUTTER'S DONKEY KICKS UP HIS HEELS — Dutton

The turf-cutter's children and their pet donkey have won many friends, who will welcome this new story of their adventures in the border of fantasy. Patricia Lynch has a veritable Irish faculty for spinning fact and fancy into a plausible tale. This seems to pull the long bow a bit - but it is forgivable in being well done. Illustrated by Winifred Bromhall. $2.00

Medary, Marjorie — JOAN AND THE THREE DEER — Random House

* This is a slight story with unique charm. Joan was blue and homesick, and not looking forward to her summer off the coast of Maine one little bit, until she was introduced to the three deer, half wild, half tame, adopted by her aunt. From that time on, the summer was made. This is their story. Exquisite illustrations by Kurt Wiese. And a fine piece of book-making altogether. J.L.G. selection. $2.00

Wynne, May — THE MASKED RIDER — Whitman

Another reissue in a Robin Hood type of story, of a disowned nephew of a rich old miser, who sets out to make good on his uncle's shortcomings, by fair means and foul. Good adventure, but the format suggests a younger appeal than the story bears out. $1.50

FACT BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Burch, Gladys & Wolcott, John — A CHILD'S BOOK OF FAMOUS COMPOSERS — A. S. Barnes

A very useful book, which should prove an excellent public library and school library reference shelf item. In brief biographies, containing the gist of the facts concerning them, the author introduces the following:- Palestrina, Bach, Handel, Gluck, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Wagner, Verdi, Foster, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Greig, MacDowell, Debussy. Contains a glossary of musical terms and an excellent index. (6/15) $1.50

Eberle, Irmengarde — A FAMILY TO RAISE — Holiday House

Good factual nature material on the period in the lives of certain animals and birds which covers the raising of their young. Surprising amount of varied information on the way they live, the way they protect themselves, the feeding and training of the young. (Opossum, white footed mouse, snapping turtle, screech owl, coyote, and wild duck). Illustrated by Else Bostelmann. $2.00

Federal Writers' Project-WPA — REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS — Whitman

A skilful sifting of facts and legends into a good factual guide to the numerous creatures coming under these general headings. Illustrated with 120 candid camera shots, drawings, maps and charts. Good for reference shelf in nature study. $2.25

Johnson, Gaylord — HOW FATHER TIME CHANGES THE ANIMALS' SHAPES — Messner

* Grand material under a bad title, which may have the unfortunate result of limiting the appeal. The use of Father Time is a hurdle throughout, and wholly unnecessary. But the factual material is so well-handled that it triumphs over its handicap, and the book emerges as the best study of evolution of certain types of the animal kingdom, from the mists of prehistoric time to the present. The text is illustrated with a number of fascinating charts and maps showing the shifts in the earth's surface, the changing place of sea and land, mountain and plain. The basis and cause of change is included and functionalism and specialization clarified. Graphically and dramatically told, with the same sense of weighing values evidenced in the author's *Story of Earthquakes and Volcanoes.* $2.00

Peet, Creighton — DUDE RANCH *The Story of a Modern Cowboy* — Whitman

The western boys on a ranch share in all the activities. Good factual book about modern cattle ranching, illustrated with photographs. $2.00

Snedigar, Robert — OUR SMALL NATIVE ANIMALS — Random House

There is plenty of good stuff in this book, but it seems to me rather uninspired in its style and arrangement, a bit pedantic in the presentation of salient facts about squirrels and chipmunks, mice, rats and shrews, coons, skunks, rabbits, birds, amphibians, lizards, snakes, turtles, alligators, etc. Problems of feeding, of trapping, of the building of terrarium and so on. A book for boys practically interested in having a private zoo, on small or large scale. Photographic illustrations. Index. Reference value primarily. $2.50

Wheeler, Opal & Deucher, Sybil — FRANZ SCHUBERT AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS — Dutton

Another title in the musician series, and again a simply told story concentrating on the musicians's childhood. Unfortunately, there seems to be a level of sameness in these books which makes them lack the individuality of, for instance, *Deep Flowering Brook*. Schubert's story seems rather colorless, with slim material spun out. $2.00

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - *Fiction*

Fitler, Mary Biddle — REDDY — Grosset & Dunlap

* A reissue of a book whose popularity when issued, and for a number of years thereafter justifies keeping it permanently before the public. One of the best boy stories it was my privilege as an editor ever to public. Now - in a different capacity, I still find the book vital, well-paced, and grand reading. The period is a generation ago in a small town on the Delaware; the incidents are such as any alert crowd of boys might share. Now published in the Juveniles of Distinction series. $1.00

Smith, Laurence Dwight — THE MYSTERY OF THE YELLOW TIE — Grosset & Dunlap

Hair raising thriller, with its due quota of gangsters, underground passages, boarded-up houses, concealed riches - and a trio of lads to the rescue. $.50

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - *Non-fiction*

Kummer, Frederic A. — LEIF ERIKSON THE LUCKY — Winston

* One of the most distinguished books among current season juveniles - and, for adults, the most interesting version of the biographies of Leif Erickson I have read. From a boyhood in Iceland to the end of his career in the new world of which he probably saw more than any white man over a period of 200 years, the story is told with zest and a keen sense of color and drama. A scholarly approach gives a note of authenticity to the picture of the period, and the author has skilfully blended known facts and legend so that the whole rings true. Good reading. J.L.G. selection. Illustrated by Norman Price. A good piece of book making. $2.00

ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS - *Fiction*

Davis, Clyde Brion — NEBRASKA COAST — Farrar & Rinehart

(For full report see May 1st bulletin, page 176). A frontier story of a period contemporaneous with the Civil War, and dealing with so-called "copperheads" of the Erie Canal district, and their westward trail to Nebraska where they find ways and means of making a living. The boy, who is the central figure, shares an unusual experience with a father too fond of the bottle, and with a mother who makes the family fortune out of the freighters while her husband waits for better things to turn up. A live bit of Americana, which should interest alert teen age boys and girls. (6/12) $2.75

Non-fiction

Trent, Spi M. — MY COUSIN WILL ROGERS — Putnam

Reminiscences of Rogers' boyhood, youth and years of fame, told in the vernacular. His youthful interests and pranks, mishaps, quick comebacks - general anecdotal material by one who knew him personally. Eulogistical but marketable. $2.50